

research centers to deal with plant diseases and zoonoses, which are pathogens transmitted from animals to humans. Still, the focus is on the usual suspects, and not enough on new pathogens, many of which can be developed cheaply by slightly altering the original virus strain.

We have learned the hard way that one terrorist cell can inflict more human and economic damage than we can protect at a given time. Congress and the Bush administration are addressing the issue, but haven't created a safer food environment. The system in place is a labyrinth of bureaucratic federal regulations that reflect yesterday's assumptions, not future possibilities. Federal funding for state activities has fallen short of their target, and state enforcement capabilities are not uniformly satisfactory. For industry, duplication of regulatory-agency requirements is costly and confounding, particularly for small and medium-size companies. Despite two years' worth of warnings of an avian-flu pandemic, drug companies still lack liability protection to launch and distribute new vaccines.

Closing the loopholes is not a matter of fine tuning because the holes are too wide to close. At home, we need to look to new genomic research that will determine how to develop crops that are resistant to a full range of pathogens. Internationally, there is an urgent need for greater coordination of research and information. No system can be failsafe when it comes to bioterrorism, but we can reshape the one we have today to be more effective.

NEW REPORT SHOWS INDIA ENGULFED BY CORRUPTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about a new report written by Indian writer M.S. Rahi, PhD, entitled "Corruption and Its Effect on Social Life." As you know, we have recently been having some problems with corruption here in Washington as well, so the paper particularly caught my eye at this time.

In it, Dr. Rahi exposes the massive corruption that has engulfed Indian government at all levels. Lately it has even begun to run through the judiciary, which had been the single semi-autonomous branch of government there and the single one that had shown even minimal concern for human rights. This is tragic for the people of India, as Dr. Rahi shows. He notes that India has been plagued with one corruption scandal after another, highlighting the Mundra, Bofors, Security Scam, Kargil Coffin Scam, Tehelka, and Recruitment Scam scandals by name. He notes that many of the lawyers practicing in Indian courts are the family members of the judges before whom they are practicing. He notes how Indian politics have been rigged to ensure dynastic succession, as the sons and daughters of Members of Parliament and of the Legislative Assemblies succeeded them.

He does not discuss one of the major Indian corruption scandals of recent times, the selling of government jobs in Punjab by the Badal government (labeled "fee for service"), nor does he discuss the massive human-rights violations in India, except to make the very good and valid point that this kind of endemic

corruption inevitably leads to human-rights violations. If the corruption can be cleaned, perhaps the human-rights violations will be reduced, something that we all desire.

The latest scandal is that Sikhs who bought land in the new state of Uttaranchal Pradesh have had their farms taken away and they have been expelled. Sikhs are not permitted to buy property in Rajasthan or in Himachal Pradesh. Yet anyone can buy land in Punjab, the predominantly Sikh state.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered in India. In addition, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians elsewhere in the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit "untouchables," Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities have been killed. Recently, the Bodos have threatened to end their truce with the Indian government.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made a good first step by apologizing for the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in November 1984, but he has made no move to compensate the families of the victims nor to apologize for any of the Indian government's other atrocities and compensate those victims.

Over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, along with tens of thousands of other minorities. The first step India must take is to release all political prisoners. And it must adopt stricter anti-corruption laws to ensure that corruption will be held to a minimum and when it does occur, it will be punished. As Dr. Rahi reminds us, the impunity of corrupt officials and the impunity of the officials who commit these atrocities go hand in hand. Until basic human rights, including the right to buy property, live free of the threat of violence, and be safe from government corruption, are allowed to be enjoyed by all Indians, we must cut off our aid and trade. And we must put Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite on the subject of independence in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, in Kashmir (as promised to the United Nations in 1948), and wherever people are seeking their freedom. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination and the people of these troubled regions will only escape the corruption and brutality when they are allowed to live in freedom.

RECOGNIZING GRANT D. ASHLEY

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the efforts of one outstanding law enforcement official who dedicated much of his life to fighting crime. After serving almost three decades in law enforcement, Grant D. Ashley will retire from the FBI today, January 31, 2006. Grant Ashley began his service with the FBI in 1976 in his hometown of Los Angeles, California. After being appointed as a Special Agent and following a period of training at Quantico, Virginia, Mr. Ashley investigated White Collar and Violent Crimes in the Los Angeles Division and served on the Los Angeles Division SWAT team.

Grant Ashley would later serve as a supervisor of Drug Investigation in the Criminal In-

vestigative Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He would then supervise the Violent Crimes Task Force and a special squad on Organized Crime and Narcotics in Chicago. In the mid-1990s, Mr. Ashley gained responsibility over national security matters in the San Diego division of the FBI, and was then appointed Associate Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Division. In February 1999, Grant Ashley moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to serve as designated Special Agent in Charge. Three years later he was appointed Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigative Division.

In 2004, FBI Director Robert Mueller appointed Grant Ashley to serve as Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services, where he had oversight over the FBI's broad efforts to support State and local law enforcement. When Director Mueller appointed Mr. Ashley he said, "Support for our partners in law enforcement is a priority for the FBI and is absolutely vital to our success in fighting terrorism and crime. Grant's background and experience as an investigator and manager make him ideally suited to oversee these efforts. He will bring to bear the same drive and innovation that he brought to criminal investigations to our efforts to improve the FBI's law enforcement services."

And indeed he did. Mr. Ashley served admirably as he worked to coordinate the efforts of the FBI, such as the laboratory division, forty-seven legal attaché offices, the Investigative Technologies Division, and the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, with the dedicated efforts of our State and local law enforcement. He understood the challenges facing our Nation's law enforcement officials, especially now in the 21st century as we fight terrorism at home and abroad. His dedication to improving law enforcement coordination across-the-board will continue to serve as a model for our Nation.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with Grant Ashley and to have had the great honor to call him, friend. Today, I also call him a patriot. As he retires from close to three decades of service with the FBI, I would like to thank Grant Ashley for his outstanding service to law enforcement and to his Nation. Grant Ashley's commitment and dedication to fighting crime and law enforcement has made our country safer, and for that we should all thank him and congratulate him on an exceptional career with the FBI.

TRIBUTE TO THE CORNER HEALTH CARE CENTER ON ITS 25TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Corner Health Center on its 25th anniversary. Located in Ypsilanti, MI, The Corner Health Center offers medical care, health education, as well as support services for low income youth between the ages of 12 to 21. This vital assistance provides the necessary support to help these young people make healthy choices now and in the future.

As Michigan's first teen health center, The Corner Health Center educates at-risk teens

on the long-range implications of their health behaviors. In addition, The Corner Health Center also encourages these youths to develop responsible behaviors and take responsibility for their own health, using such innovative programs as: a theatre troupe, individualized baby booklets, as well as drug, alcohol and pregnancy prevention counseling.

Mr. Speaker, organizations such as The Corner Health Center serve our communities in invaluable ways. They provide key services supporting both the health of individuals as well as the health of their communities in which they live. I am proud to have The Corner Health Center in Michigan's 15th Congressional District and I would like to congratulate The Center on its 25th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE JOHN F. GILLESPIE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of Detective John F. Gillespie of the Boston Police Department. Upon his recent retirement, I wish to praise John for his thirty-five years of devoted service to the city of Boston.

John joined the Boston Police Department on October 7, 1970 and was first assigned to District Two in Roxbury. After more than two years of exemplary service, he was assigned to the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF), which patrolled the various neighborhoods of Boston.

John's next assignment was to District Eleven in Dorchester, where he received several letters of commendation during his tenure. One in particular was awarded to John for his courageous apprehension of a man wielding a shotgun.

In 1985, he moved to the position of Information Officer, which worked directly with the Boston Police Commissioners Office. After three years of service John was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Intelligence Unit, which is designated to dignitary protection. In this position he coordinated with Federal and State agencies in order to protect various heads of state as well as United States presidents.

John Gillespie is a remarkable gentleman with a long and illustrious career with the Boston Police Department. John's personal integrity, hard work and determination illustrate the best characteristics of those who work to protect and serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with John's family, friends, and fellow officers on the Boston Police Department to thank him for his service. Additionally, I think we all would like to congratulate him on his much deserved retirement. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating John Gillespie's distinguished career and thank him for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES D. SCANLON

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James D. Scanlon for a distinguished professional career that has spanned more than 39 years. As Jim prepares for his retirement as president of BAE Systems Platform Solutions, I would like to recognize and thank him for his tremendous leadership of one of our region's biggest and most stable employers, as well as his leadership in the Greater Binghamton business community.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a nuclear weapons officer, Jim began his career in the private sector with General Electric's Engineering Career Development Program, developing design and management systems for military aircraft. In 1992, he was named General Manager of GE's Control Systems business, retaining that position when the business was acquired by Martin Marietta and then merged with Lockheed. In 1995, as president of Lockheed Martin Control Systems, Jim led the acquisition of GE Aircraft Engines' engine control manufacturing operation. When Lockheed Martin Control Systems was combined with BAE Systems in 2000, Jim was named president of BAE Systems Controls. During the course of his career, he has overseen the development and production of mission-critical control systems used on all U.S. military aircraft and most of the global military aircraft, as well as every regional and large commercial aircraft worldwide.

In addition to his broad engineering and management experience, Jim has been an invaluable resource for our community, ensuring that BAE Systems and the previous owners of the Johnson City, New York, plant were involved and committed partners in the redevelopment of the Greater Binghamton region's economy. He has matched his professional commitment to our communities with a personal one, serving on the directorial boards of several local organizations, including the United Way and the SUNY Binghamton School of Management. He has justly received the many honors bestowed upon him by community organizations.

In addition to these numerous professional credentials, it must be noted that I, like so many others in Broome County, regard Jim as a friend. He inspires great loyalty in his employees and affection from the countless others with who he has worked over the years, in the defense industry, in the government, and in his home community of Vestal. He will be sorely missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Jim Scanlon and his family on his retirement. I offer my very best wishes to him and his wife Dolores as they begin this new chapter in their lives, along with my deep appreciation for his innovation, dedication and hard work for his past 39 years.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIR ORR, CHAIRMAN AND FOURTH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clair Orr, a fellow Coloradan who has served with distinction on the State Board of Education. Since 1994, Clair has endeavored to provide students around the state with greater opportunity in life by obtaining high quality educations in our state's public schools. On this eight-member Board, Clair served as its Chairman and represented the 35,000-square-mile Fourth Congressional District.

Over the course of his tenure, Clair was instrumental in advancing initiatives because of his heart for service, dedication to helping students, and his ability to make tough stands for policies he knew would make a real difference.

It has been said that Clair measures his success by upholding the Colorado Revised Statutes, the U.S. Constitution, and the legal authority given to the Board. For these reasons, it is no wonder that Mr. Orr received the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of States Board Educators (NASBE) after being nominated by his colleagues in his second term.

Shortly after beginning his service on the Board, Clair Orr successfully challenged Colorado Governor Roy Romer, standing up to his proposed constitutional amendment to change the Colorado Children's Trust Fund Board. Later, in 2000, he was appointed to this Trust by Governor Bill Owens.

Because of his leadership on the Board, however, Governor Romer appointed Clair to the Principle and Administrators Standards Board as well as the Colorado Achievement Task Force.

In the wake of the devastating Columbine shooting that shook our nation, Clair Orr organized an emergency Board meeting and led the bipartisan group to take unanimous action.

Among his other notable contributions over his 11 year term were the design and implementation of the Colorado Student Assessment Program, which is now the longest-standing standards-based assessment in the country. While serving on the Board, Clair oversaw the creation of an accreditation system where the state accredits local school districts using an 11 point system, which in-turn accredit local schools.

Clair Orr helped implement the School Accountability Reports program, which was considered the largest administrative task undertaken by the Colorado Department of Education. Additionally, he played a critical role in reviewing Colorado's plan to implement President Bush's No Child Left Behind.

In addition, Clair served on the Colorado Civics Task and helped secure a multi-million dollar grant for its projects. He was also selected by other Board members to serve for four years on the Nominations Committee for the NASBE.

Throughout Colorado, Clair Orr is revered by the education community and he has received high remarks from those who he has